

Manufacturing Rebound



These jobs are a major contributor to the economic vitality that Utah currently enjoys.

Utah's labor market, with strong job growth and extremely low unemployment, is expanding at a healthy pace across all major industrial sectors. In fact, economic conditions are better now than at any time in the last ten years.


Just a few years ago the economic landscape was very different. In 2001, both nationally and in Utah, job losses were the order of the day. Recession, higher unemployment, and post-9/11 fear of terrorism were weighing heavily on the U.S. and Utah economies. The labor market continued to struggle throughout 2002 and 2003.

No major industrial sector was more significantly impacted than manufac-

turing. In January of 2001, Utah had 125,392 manufacturing jobs. Manufacturing employment dropped to a low of 111,280 in March of 2003, losing 14,112 jobs or 11.3 percent over 26 months. Most types of manufacturing were negatively impacted, including aerospace, fabricated metals, printing, machinery, apparel, medical supplies, and chemicals.

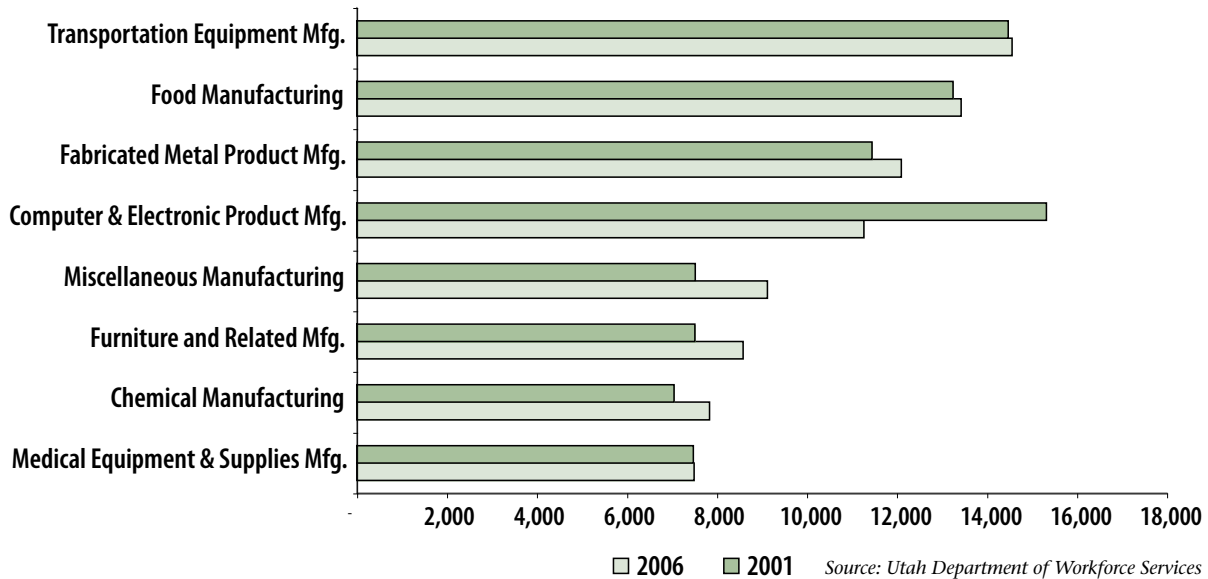
By far the most heavily impacted type of manufacturing, with the most job losses, was computer and electronic product manufacturing. At the beginning of 2001 there were 16,641 jobs in this industry. By March of 2004 there were about 10,700 remaining, the industry shedding almost 6,000 jobs.

The manufacturing industry stabilized during 2003 and has produced employment gains for the past three years. In March of 2007, overall manufacturing employment in Utah was 126,550, recovering all of the jobs lost during the recessionary period. Employment in computer and electronic manufacturing is growing, but has only regained about 1,700 of its 6,000 lost jobs.

Currently, employment in manufacturing is expanding at 4.3 percent compared to a year ago, with 5,200 new jobs. These jobs are a major contributor to the economic vitality that the state currently enjoys. 

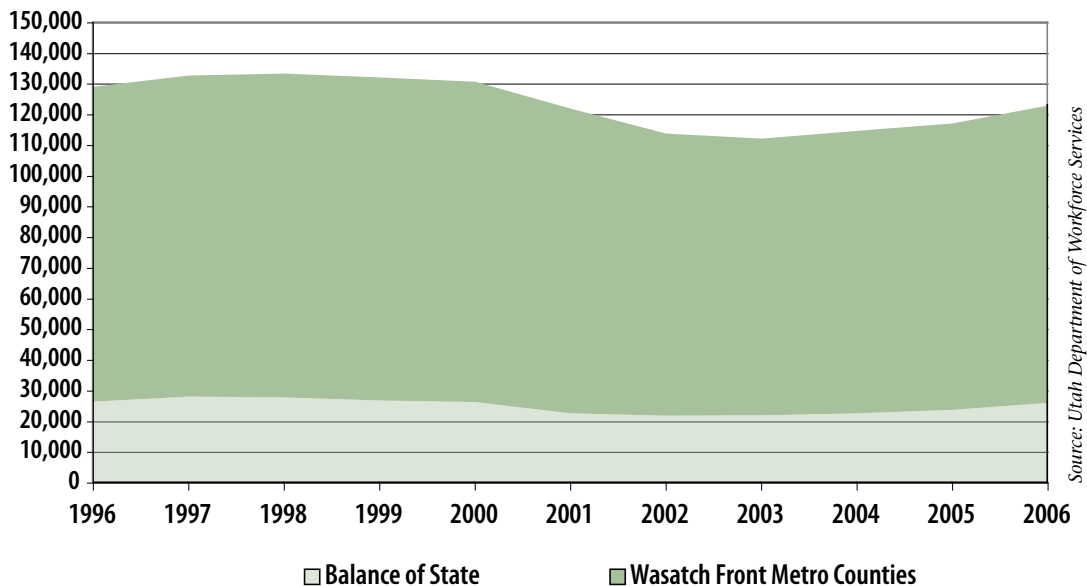
Jobs

in the Eight Largest Manufacturing Sectors in Utah



Manufacturing

Employment in Utah



Salt Lake, Utah, Davis, Weber, Tooele, Summit, Juab, and Morgan.

